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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

RELEASE ON RECEIPT

(Do not release after April 5, 1941)

Subject: "FORTNIGHTLY FOOD-SHOPPING TIPS." Information from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the Consumers' Counsel, A.A.A.

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Once again the news is for the woman who plans her family's meals and does the food-shopping. Once more we have tips from the U. S. Department of Agriculture on supplies and prices of foods in the markets.

You have probably noticed just lately that your market is a little shy on some vegetables. Not very many snap beans, lima beans, tomatoes or green peppers for sale the last week or so. And you've probably guessed, and guessed right, that the weather has been unfavorable down South where fresh vegetables are growing this season. The weather also has cut down some on the cabbage and celery. But very shortly now you'll see a pick-up in cabbage and celery. In the meantime, there are plenty of fresh young carrots, beets, spinach and lettuce. The weather didn't affect these vegetables. In a few weeks supplies of these vegetables will increase and be more plentiful than a year ago.

Tomato supplies will be small all during April, from the looks of things now. Most of the domestic tomatoes come from South Florida at this time of year. And South Florida had a frost early in March that destroyed much of the tomato crop. More tomatoes will be coming in during May, but it's likely that tomatoes won't be really plentiful until June.

Here's a little news about asparagus. Wet weather in California has held up harvesting asparagus. But if the California sun will come out and stay awhile, you can expect to see a good deal of California asparagus for sale along with shipments from Georgia and South Carolina.

So much for tips about fresh vegetables on the market. Now about the fruit that suggests spring to most people--strawberries. The predictions are that during this month of April the markets are going to have a lot more berries than they had last year at this time. Louisiana berries are already starting to come in. Toward the end of April you can expect the heaviest shipments. A frost in late February delayed the berries, but they're getting ripe fast these days. The price of strawberries usually goes down from April to the end of May or early June. Early June is usually the time when berries are cheapest.

Now from fruits and vegetables let's turn to meat. First, pork. Pork is going to be much less plentiful on the market and higher in price than a year ago. A good deal of pork is in storage--much more than last year. But these storage stocks won't offset the fact that fewer hogs are going to be slaughtered up to October of this year.

Beef, too, is going to continue higher in price than last year, even though the wholesale price of beef has dropped some. Since mid-January prices of cattle grading good, choice and fair have dropped a dollar fifty on every hundred pounds. More beef will be coming to market during the next month.

Here's the news about eggs. As you might expect at this time of year the markets will have more eggs all this month. Wholesale prices have probably about reached their low point for the season. Eggs from now on through the summer will probably be fewer and more expensive than a year ago.

More butter will be coming on the market from now through June. Butter will be more plentiful than it was last year, but, just the same, butter prices will be higher than a year ago. However, the price of butter will probably drop some from now to the end of June.

The last item of news here for the food-shopper is about potatoes. The

markets continue to have more new and old white potatoes but fewer sweetpotatoes. Perhaps you have noticed more new potatoes coming to market. With favorable weather a great many new potatoes should be coming in right along now. The old-potato season has only a couple of months more to run. During this month of April supplies of old potatoes will probably fall off. The country has had so many old potatoes in recent months that potatoes have been sold for livestock feed and manufacture of starch.

Well, that's all the news of supplies and prices of seasonal foods for today. Listen for more in a couple of weeks.

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